

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

GERTRUDES CHAVEZ,

No. C 09-3148 MHP (pr)

Petitioner,

**ORDER DENYING HABEAS  
PETITION**

v.

BEN CURRY, warden,

Respondent.

Petitioner filed a pro se petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 in which he claimed that a decision by the Board of Parole Hearings to find him not suitable for parole violated his right to due process because it was not supported by sufficient evidence. A new decision from the U.S. Supreme Court requires that the petition be summarily denied.

A “federal court may issue a writ of habeas corpus to a state prisoner ‘only on the ground that he is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States.’” Swarthout v. Cooke, No. 10-333, slip op. 1, 4 (U.S. Jan. 24, 2011) (citations omitted.) The court may not grant habeas relief for state law errors. Id.

For purposes of federal habeas review, a California prisoner is entitled to only “minimal” procedural protections in connection with a parole suitability determination. The procedural protections to which the prisoner is entitled under the Due Process Clause of the


1 Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution are limited to an opportunity to be heard and  
2 a statement of the reasons why parole was denied. See id. at 4-5. The Court explained that  
3 no Supreme Court case “supports converting California’s ‘some evidence’ rule into a  
4 substantive federal requirement,” id. at 5, and the Ninth Circuit erred in holding otherwise.

5 In light of the Supreme Court’s determination that the constitutionally-mandated  
6 procedural protections do not include a requirement that there be some evidence (or any  
7 other amount of evidence) to support the parole denial, the petition for writ of habeas corpus  
8 is DENIED.

9 A certificate of appealability will not issue because petitioner has not made "a  
10 substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right." 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2). This is  
11 not a case in which "reasonable jurists would find the district court’s assessment of the  
12 constitutional claims debatable or wrong." Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000).

13 IT IS SO ORDERED.

14 DATED: January 26, 2011

  
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Marilyn Hall Patel  
United States District Judge